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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 968
By Davis L

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. William "Bill" G.
Craven.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of William "Bill" Craven of Fentress County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Craven was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Craven served with acumen as an attorney, in which position he earned the respect of his clients and co-workers alike for the superior quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, a native of Wilder, Bill Craven was the eldest of five sons born to Jackson Bates Craven and Lillie Mae Craven; as a boy, he helped his father in the company store that served the coal miners in the Wilder area; and

WHEREAS, understanding the value of hard work, he was an exceptional student at Webb School; and

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WHEREAS, he answered the call of his country and enlisted in the Navy in World War II, where he served meritoriously with the Naval Armed Guard on ships transporting supplies to the troops; and

WHEREAS, at the end of the war he returned to Bell Buckle and dedicated his efforts to academic excellence; he subsequently earned a bachelor's degree from Cumberland University and his law degree from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Bill began his estimable law practice with Jim Blaine Reagan and Hollis Neal in Jamestown in 1951; he became one of the areas premier trial lawyers, and was especially acclaimed in land litigation; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to the well-being of his community, Bill Craven was instrumental in obtaining the first garment factory in Fentress County, and in the early 1970's, he joined with others in founding the Fentress County Bank, now the First Volunteer Bank of the Upper Cumberlands, where he was active on the Board of Directors until 1999; and

WHEREAS, throughout his praiseworthy law career, Mr. Craven performed thousands of title opinions on real property for loans and transfers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Craven was joined in his legal practice by his son-in-law, Jim Romer, in 1979, and Steve Rains in 1988; and

WHEREAS, he was a highly respected member of the community and served with probity in a variety of capacities in the Republican Party, including his duties as District Chairman and County Chairman, in addition to assisting in numerous campaigns over the years; and

WHEREAS, Bill Craven was committed to professional excellence and was a member of the Tennessee Bar Association, and the Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his superior performance as an attorney, he enjoyed a Martindale-Hubbell AV rating, recognized throughout the world as the highest rating an attorney can achieve; and

WHEREAS, endeavoring to lead a Christian life, Bill Craven was a devout member of the Fentress County Catholic Church, which he served faithfully for many years and was an active member; he helped found the church in 1975 and was baptized there in 1983; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Craven was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Bill Craven enjoyed the loving companionship of his late wife, Emily, and was the proud parent of Patrick, a physician in Chattanooga; Denise, an area manager with the Tennessee Department of Human Services; April, a social worker with Quality Home Health Care and George, an environmental scientist with the EPA in Florida; and

WHEREAS, he was also the devoted grandparent of five grandchildren, Michael and Carrie Romer, Emily and Ashley Craven, and Richard William Hatfield; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable man is also survived by four brothers, Charles, Rufus Ed, J.B. and Paul, and several nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Craven leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of William "Bill" G. Craven, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Craven.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

